

## CODIFICATION

This chapter, the first time it appears in subsec. (a), was in the original “this Act” and was translated as reading “this title”, as the probable intent of Congress.

**§ 2443. Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of this chapter, including, but not limited to—

(1) necessary travel expenses of the United States representatives referred to in section 2433 of this title, alternate United States representatives, and authorized advisers and experts, in accordance with sections 5701 through 5708, 5731, and 5733 of title 5 and the regulations issued under those sections;

(2) the United States contribution to the budget of the Commission as provided in article XIX of the Convention; and

(3) the directed research program and the furnishing of facilities and personnel to the Commission referred to in section 2441 of this title.

(Pub. L. 98-623, title III, §314, Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3406.)

**§ 2444. Severability**

If any provision of this chapter or the application of this chapter to any person or circumstance is held invalid, neither the remainder of this chapter nor the application of that provision to other persons or circumstances shall be affected thereby.

(Pub. L. 98-623, title III, §315, Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3407.)

## CHAPTER 44B—ANTARCTIC MINERAL RESOURCES PROTECTION

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**§ 2461. Findings and purpose****(a) Findings**

Congress finds that—

(1) the Antarctic continent with its associated and dependent ecosystems is a distinctive environment providing a habitat for many unique species and offering a natural laboratory from which to monitor critical aspects of stratospheric ozone depletion and global climate change;

(2) Antarctica is protected by a series of international agreements, including the Antarctic Treaty and associated recommendations, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Seals, and the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, which are intended to conserve the renewable natural resources of Antarctica and to recognize the importance of Antarctica for the conduct of scientific research;

(3) recurring and recent developments in Antarctica, including increased siting of scientific stations, poor waste disposal practices, oil spills, increased tourism, and the over-exploitation of marine living resources, have raised serious questions about the adequacy and implementation of existing agreements and domestic law to protect the Antarctic environment and its living marine resources;

(4) the parties to the Antarctic Treaty have negotiated a Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resources Activities which the United States has signed but not yet ratified;

(5) the Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resources Activities does not guarantee the preservation of the fragile environment of Antarctica and could actually stimulate movement toward Antarctic mineral resource activity;

(6) the exploitation of mineral resources in Antarctica could lead to additional degradation of the Antarctic environment, including increased risk of oil spills;

(7) the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties have agreed to a voluntary ban on Antarctic mineral resource activities which needs to be made legally binding;

(8) the level of scientific study, including necessary support facilities, has increased to the point that some scientific programs may be degrading the Antarctic environment; and

(9) the planned special consultative meeting of parties to the Antarctic Treaty and the imminence of the thirtieth anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty provide opportunities for the United States to exercise leadership toward protection and sound management of Antarctica.

**(b) Purpose**

The purpose of this chapter is to—

(1) strengthen substantially overall environmental protection of Antarctica;

(2) prohibit prospecting, exploration, and development of Antarctic mineral resources by United States citizens and other persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States;

(3) urge other nations to join the United States in immediately negotiating one or more new agreements to provide an indefinite ban on all Antarctic mineral resource activities and comprehensive protection for Antarctica and its associated and dependent ecosystems; and

(4) urge all nations to consider a permanent ban on Antarctic mineral resource activities.

(Pub. L. 101-594, §2, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 2975.)

## SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 101-594 provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Antarctic Protection Act of 1990’.”

**§ 2462. Definitions**

For the purposes of this chapter:

(1) The term “Antarctica” means the area south of the Antarctic Convergence as defined in section 2432(1) of this title.

(2) The term “Antarctic mineral resource activity” means prospecting, exploration, or de-